



US 610.29-FMC029

NO. 66-12265

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**RECEIVED****DECLARATION****MAR 27 2003****OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

As below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our names.

We believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **COLLAPSIBLE BUOYANCY DEVICE FOR RISERS ON OFFSHORE STRUCTURES** having been filed on December 4, 2000 and assigned Serial No. 9/730,414.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

§1.56 DUTY OF DISCLOSURE-INFORMATION MATERIAL TO PATENTABILITY

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and

- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of the United States provisional application listed below and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States provisional application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior provisional application and the filing of this application:

<u>Provisional Application Ser. No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
60/169,438	December 7, 1999	Pending

We hereby declare that all statements made hereby of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

As named inventors, we hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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